

Judy Bell Receives N.J. Turfgrass Association Environmental Award



Judy Bell, president of the USGA, was presented with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association Environmental Stewardship Award from Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers University on December 11, 1996, at the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The award was made in recognition of the dynamic leadership Bell has provided the USGA in taking an important role in developing programs and guidelines that address the issues of environmental protection as they pertain to the maintenance of golf courses.

Organic Matter Minimum Dropped from USGA Green Construction Recommendations

When the latest version of the USGA's recommendations for putting green construction was published in the *Green Section Record* in 1993, an organic matter requirement was included and was listed as 1% to 5% by weight (ideally 2% to 4%). Since previous versions of the USGA recommendations had reported organic matter by volume, there had never been a minimum organic matter requirement prior to 1993.

As many scientists and laboratory staff worked with this requirement, it became apparent that many good-quality root zone mixes were being rejected because the organic matter content was coming in at less than 1%, even though all other physical requirements (such as particle size distribution, porosity, and hydraulic conductivity) were being met. When the

organic matter content was increased to the 1% minimum, many of the mixtures would then fail for other reasons. We then tried reducing the minimum requirement to 0.7%, but then there was the dilemma of what to do when the recommendation came in at 0.6%, and so on.

Because some economical, good-quality root zone mixes have to be rejected because of an organic matter requirement with a range that was somewhat arbitrary in the first place, we've decided to eliminate the range altogether. The Green Section continues to recommend that organic matter be included in root zone mixes, but it will be up to the laboratory test to determine how much should be added. This policy will return us to the recommendations as they existed for the 33 years prior to the 1993 revision.

Jim Snow Named Person of the Year



Jim Snow, national director of the USGA Green Section, was awarded the 1996 Person of the Year Award in the golf category by *Landscape Management* magazine. Terry McIver, editor of *Landscape Management*, was on hand in Las Vegas, Nevada, to present the award to Jim during the USGA Green Section Educational Conference at the annual GCSAA Conference and Show.

Jim Snow has provided leadership for the USGA Green Section since being named national director in 1990. His background provides a wealth of experience for his current role. After graduating with a Master of Science degree in Horticulture from Cornell University, he was hired as an agronomist for the Northeastern Region in 1976, and served as director of the region from 1982 to 1990.

Jim's tenure with the Green Section coincides with a time of great advancement in golf course design, construction issues, new technologies in golf course maintenance, and environmental issues. His leadership and direction guide the USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program, and he has spearheaded the development and refinement of the USGA Recommendations for a Method of Green Construction. In addition, Jim oversees the Green Section's Turf Advisory Service, consisting of 16 regional agronomists who consult with golf course superintendents and course officials at more than 1,600 golf courses each year. He also is the editor of the *Green Section Record* magazine.

A significant contribution to the game of golf has been his support and development of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, in cooperation with Audubon International. The ever-growing program now has more than 2,400 registered golf courses working to promote ecologically sound land management and the conservation of our natural resources.



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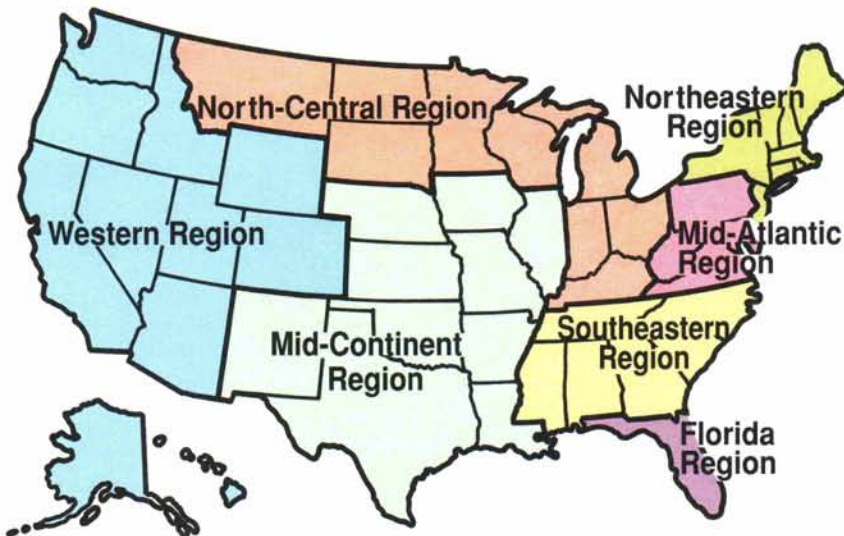
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